



DC SUPERMAN

15¢

EXTRA! "THE BOY WHO BEGGED TO DIE"

ACTION COMICS

APPROVED
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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

NO. 401
JUNE
30010



SUPER-HERO BECOMES SUPER-VILLAIN IN
"INVADER GO HOME"

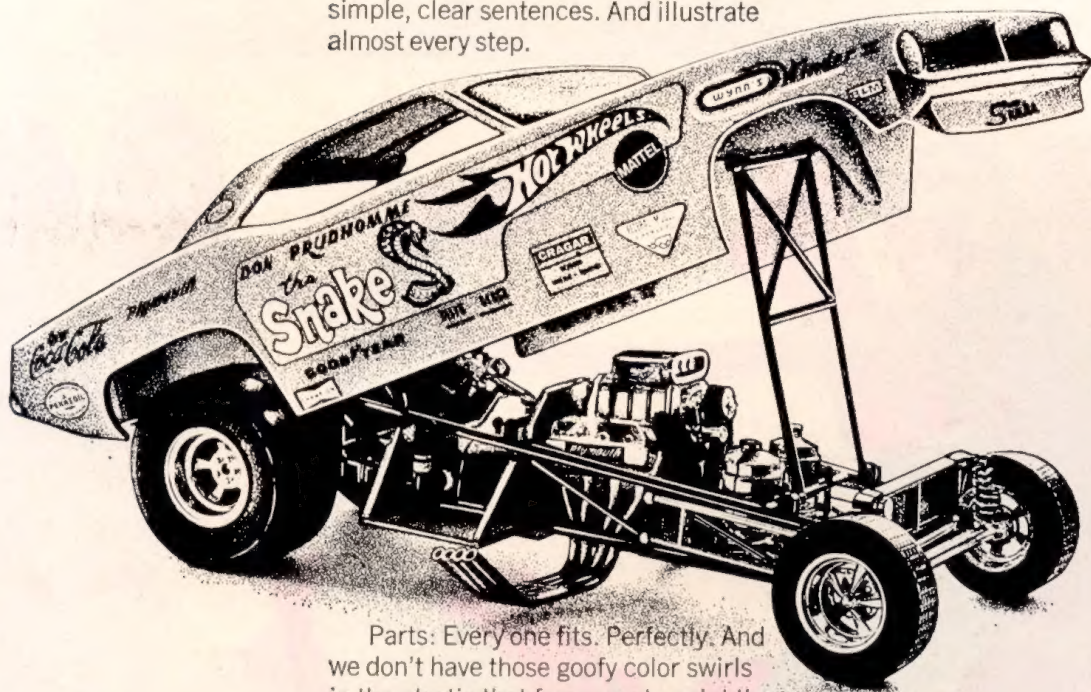
6979

HOW MANY MODELS HAVE YOU STARTED BUT NEVER FINISHED?

Most kids toss half their models into the garbage.

For some good reasons.

Directions: Too many read like Casey Stengel discussing the theory of evolution. For Monogram kits we write simple, clear sentences. And illustrate almost every step.



Parts: Every one fits. Perfectly. And we don't have those goofy color swirls in the plastic that force you to paint the thing before it looks like something.

Realism: Our Snake™ is an exact replica of Don Prudhomme's bomb—with incredible detail. In suspension. In the blown Plymouth 426 Hemi. The dual drag chutes. Wheelie bars. Fire extinguisher system. You'll get a bigger kick out of Snake and Mongoose's parts than from many completed models.



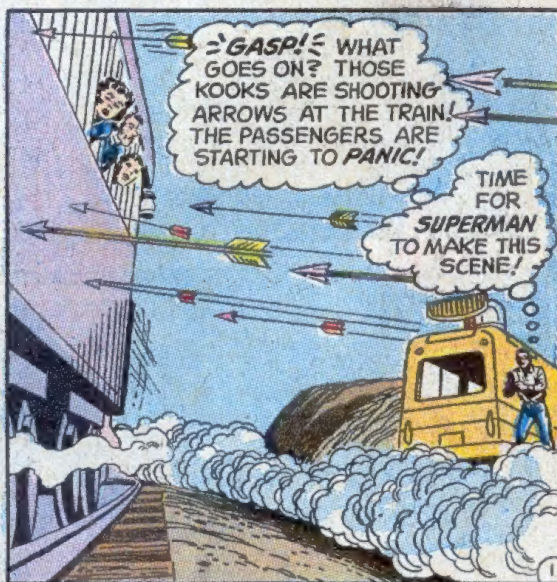
THE MONGOOSE.™ A REPLICA OF TOM MCEWEN'S CAR. AND THE ONLY THING THAT'LL CATCH A SNAKE.

Building any of our kits is like eating peanuts. Once you start you can't stop.



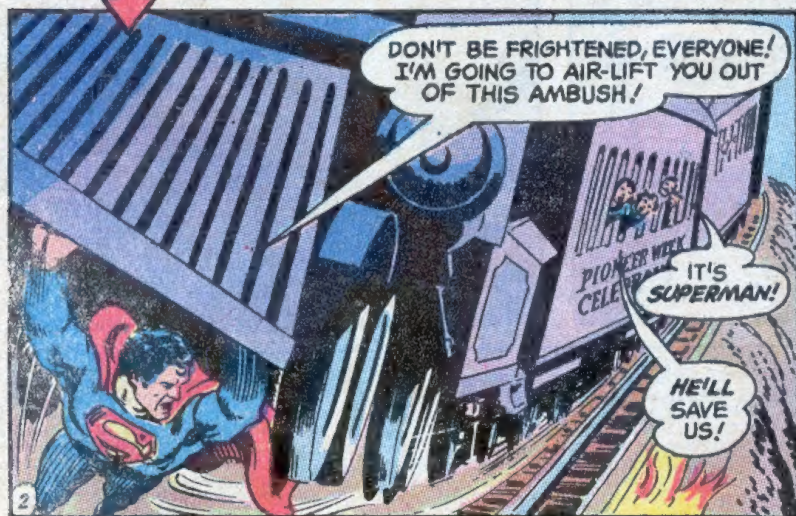
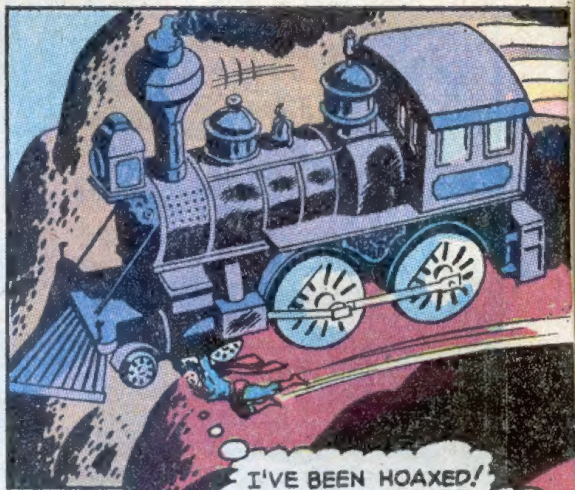
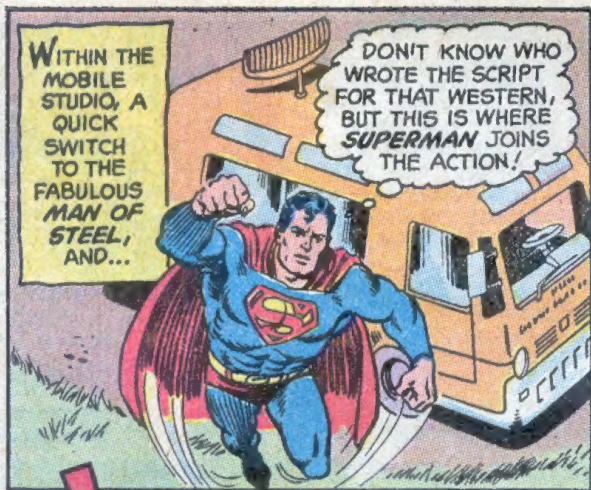
THE MODELS YOU FINISH.

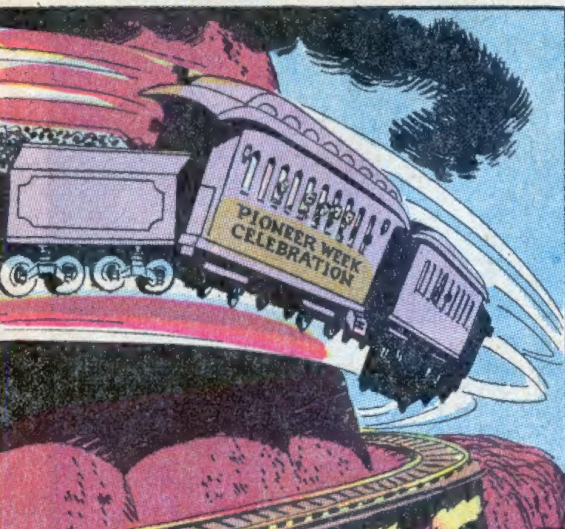
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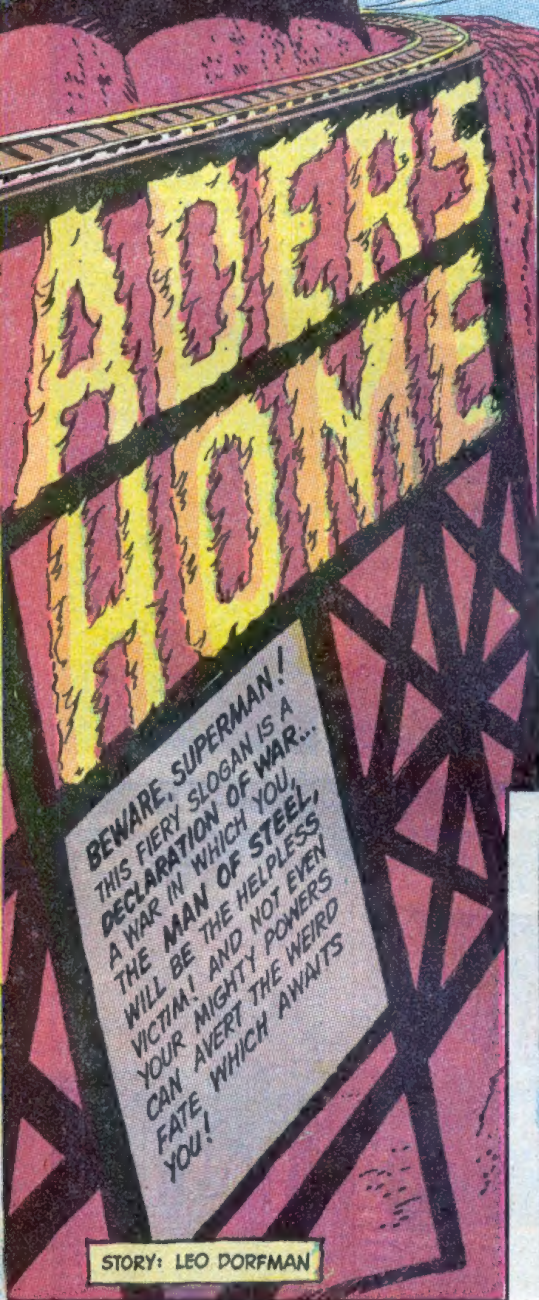
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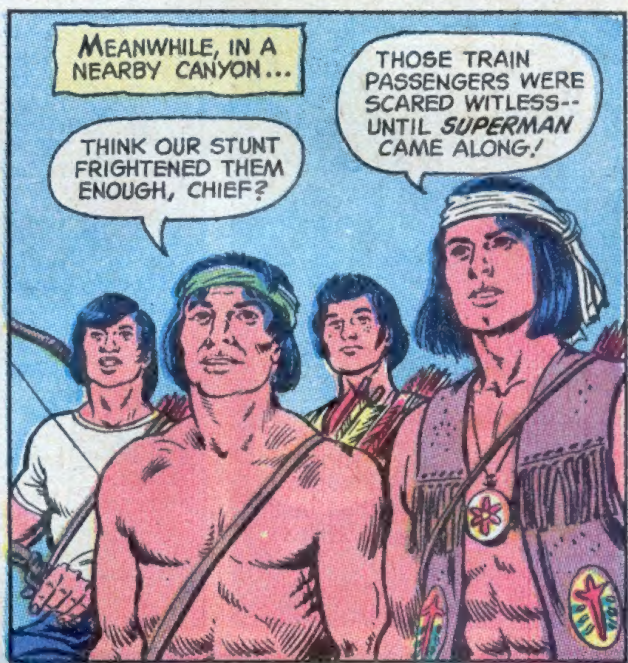


BUT WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT HAIR-BRAINED STUNT? I'LL FIND OUT AS SOON AS I BRING THIS TRAIN IN FOR A LANDING!



STORY: LEO DORFMAN

MEANWHILE, IN A NEARBY CANYON...

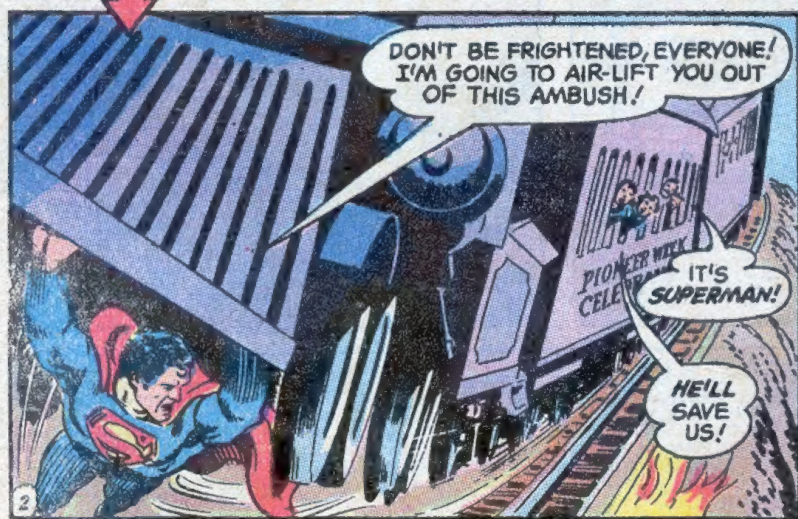
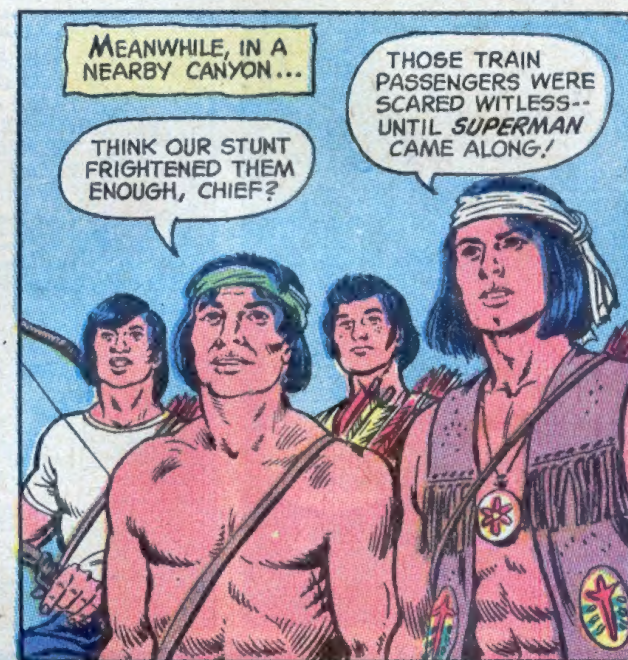
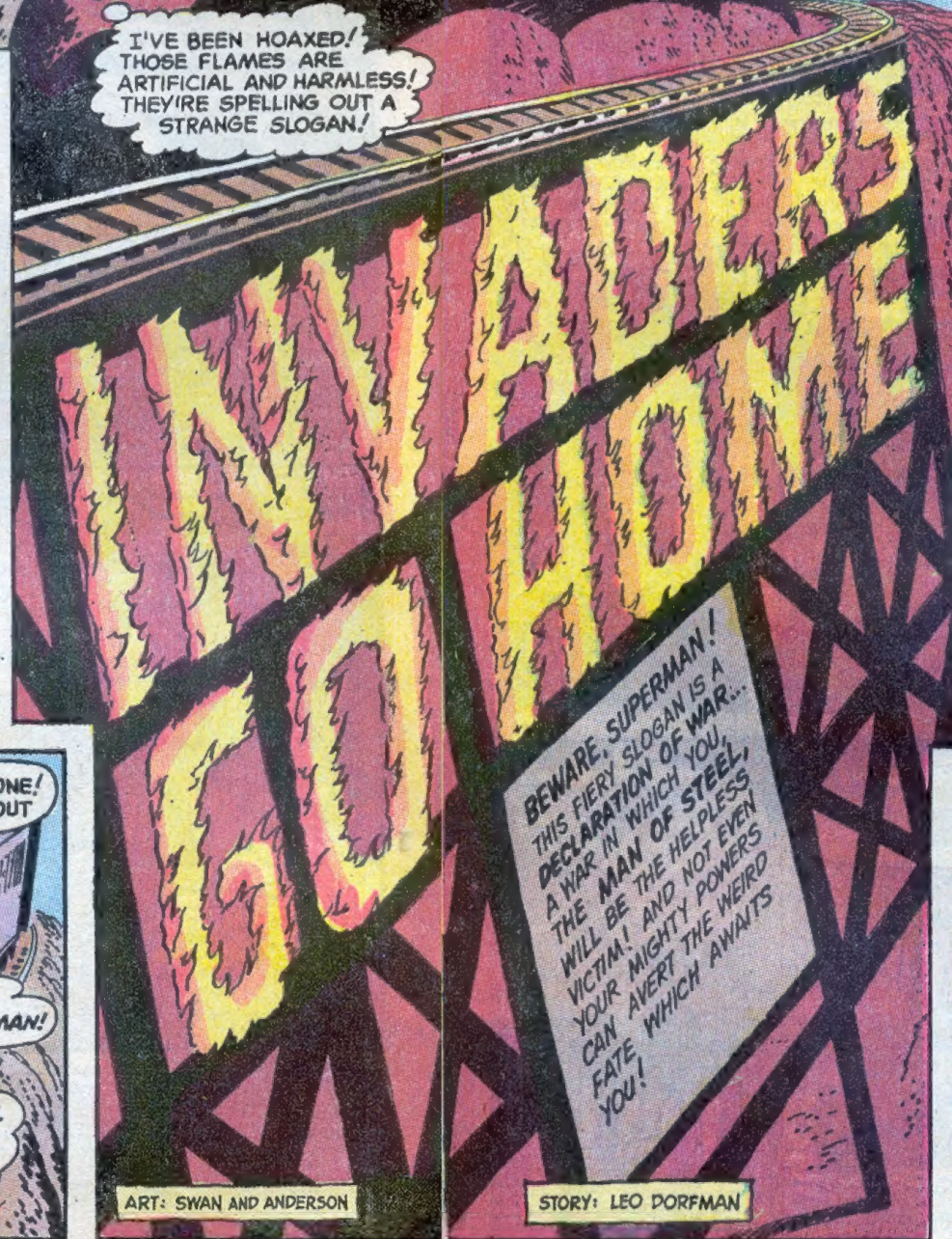
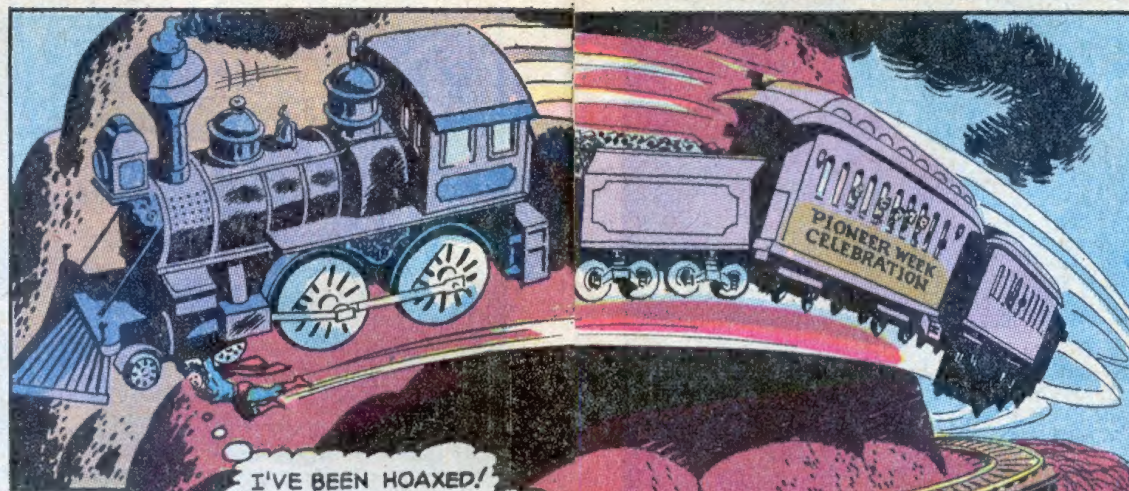
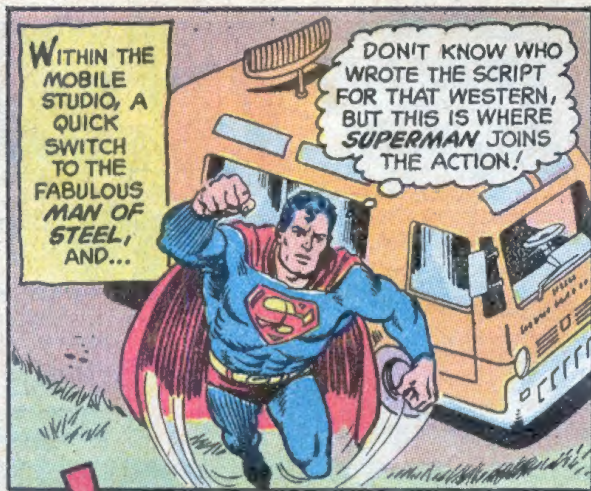


THINK OUR STUNT FRIGHTENED THEM ENOUGH, CHIEF?

THOSE TRAIN PASSENGERS WERE SCARED WITLESS-- UNTIL *SUPERMAN* CAME ALONG!



SUPERMAN SPELLS TROUBLE! WE'D BETTER SPLIT, MEN!



ART: SWAN AND ANDERSON

STORY: LEO DORFMAN

MEANWHILE...

BUT WHAT DOES THE SLOGAN MEAN, SHERIFF?

THAT'S THE WAR-CRY OF THE LOCAL **NAVARRO INDIANS**--DESCENDANTS OF THE TRIBE WHICH ONCE OWNED THIS LAND! THEY CONSIDER EVERYBODY ELSE LIVING OUT HERE, TO BE **INVADERS!**

INVADERS GO HOME

THOSE HOT-HEADED NAVARROS ARE DEMANDING THE **RETURN OF ALL** THE TERRITORY THAT ONCE BELONGED TO THEM.

I'D BETTER LOOK INTO THIS! I'LL TRACK DOWN THOSE RAIDERS!

THOSE MOTORCYCLES COULDN'T LEAVE ANY TRACE ON THAT ROCKY TERRAIN--EXCEPT FOR THE **FAINT RUBBER TREAD MARKS** DETECTED BY MY **X-RAY VISION!**

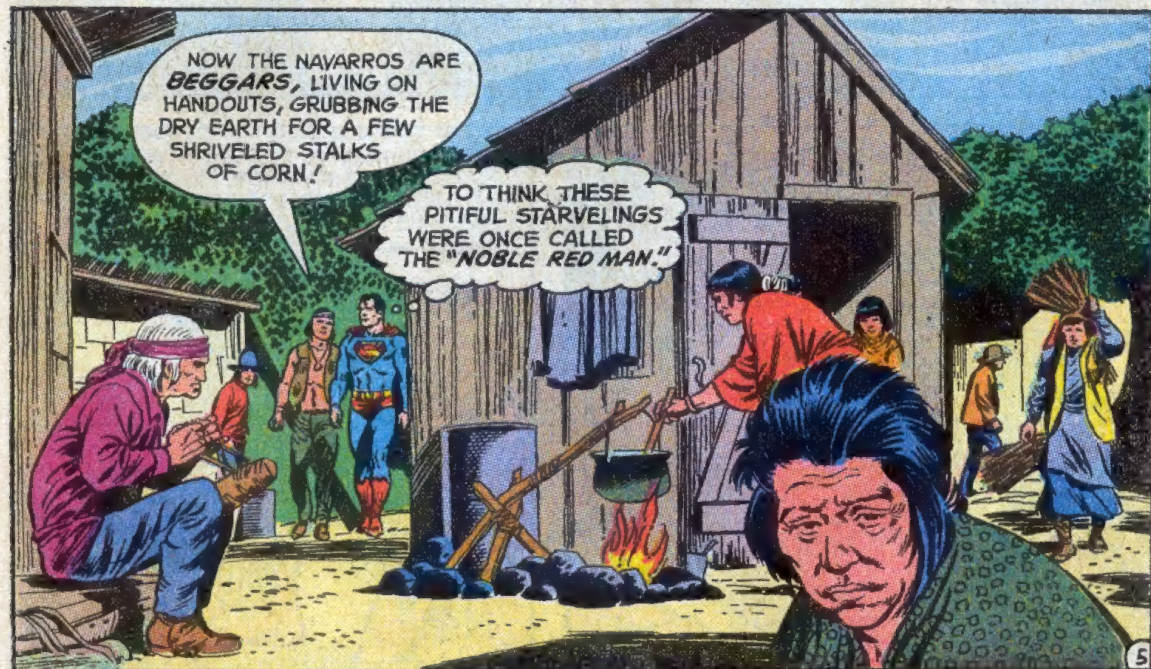
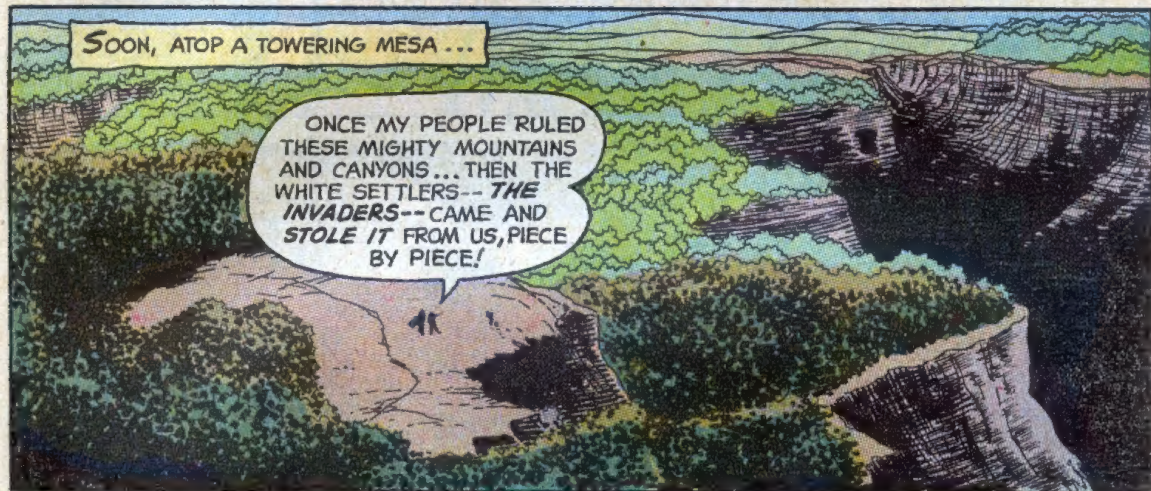
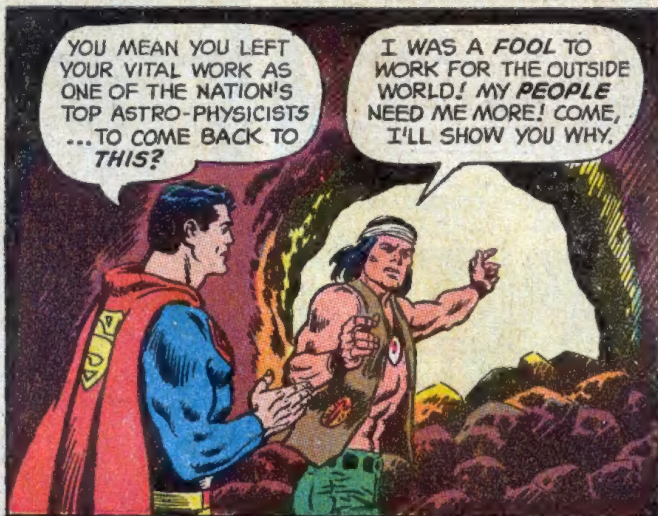
THE TRAIL LEADS RIGHT TO THE ROCK FACE BELOW THAT CLIFF DWELLING!

KAPOWW!

WHY HIDE, BOYS? YOU WEREN'T SO SHY BACK AT THE BRIDGE!

WE WERE EXPECTING YOU, **SUPERMAN!** YOU DON'T FRIGHTEN US!

KARRRUNNNNCHH!





BUT WE'RE **THROUGH** TAKING IT, **SUPERMAN!** WE'RE TEACHING OUR KIDS TO **FIGHT BACK!**

COME, I'LL SHOW YOU A SPECIAL SCHOOL WE JUST ORGANIZED!

LEAD THE WAY, RED HAWK!



SOON, INSIDE THE "CLASSROOM"...

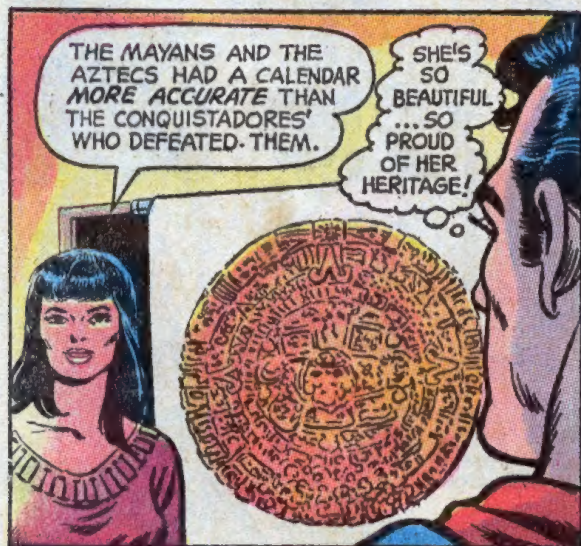
SUPERMAN, MEET **MOON FLOWER!** SHE'S THE **TEACHER!**

SHE'S VERY ATTRACTIVE.

I'M ABOUT TO START THE LESSON. LISTEN IN, **SUPERMAN,** YOU MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING!



INDIANS WERE **FAR FROM PRIMITIVE** WHEN THE WHITE MAN CAME CENTURIES AGO. IT WAS **WE** WHO DISCOVERED SUCH FOOD CROPS AS CORN AND POTATOES! OUR PEOPLE KNEW ALL ABOUT IRRIGATION AND TERRACING!



THE MAYANS AND THE AZTECS HAD A CALENDAR **MORE ACCURATE** THAN THE CONQUISTADORES' WHO DEFEATED THEM.

SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL... SO PROUD OF HER HERITAGE!



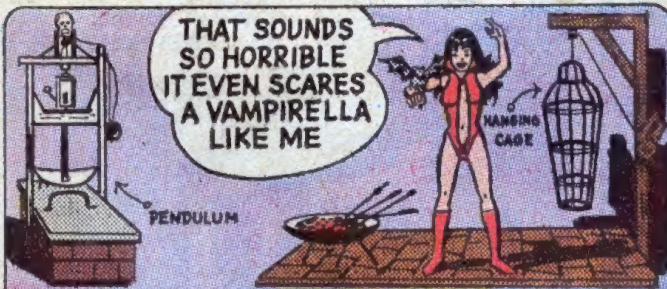
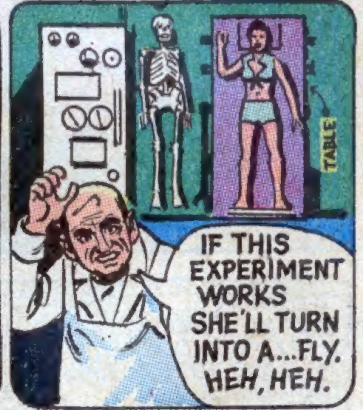
AND WE INDIANS HAD A **SUPERMAN,** TOO! THE MIGHTY **MONTEZUMA,** RULER OF THE GREAT AZTEC EMPIRE! HISTORY SAYS HE IS **DEAD!**

BUT SOMEDAY HE'LL RETURN... TO LEAD OUR PEOPLE TO A **GLORIOUS FUTURE!**

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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PUT TOGETHER YOUR OWN SCARY SCENES WITH AURORA'S FANTASTIC MONSTERSCENES CUSTOM BUILDER KITS.



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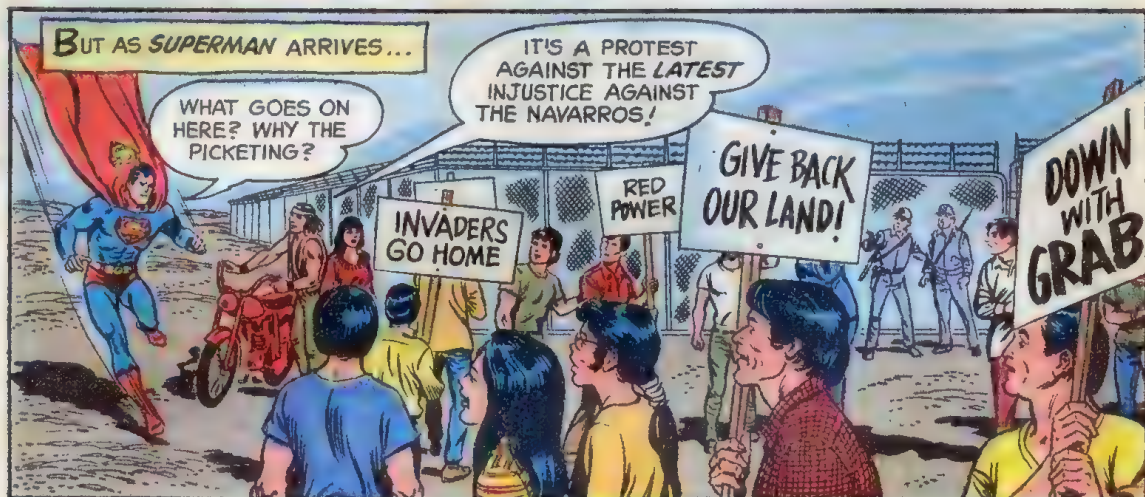
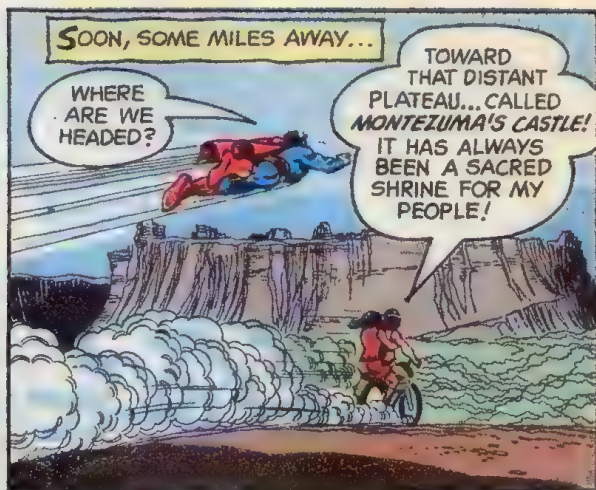
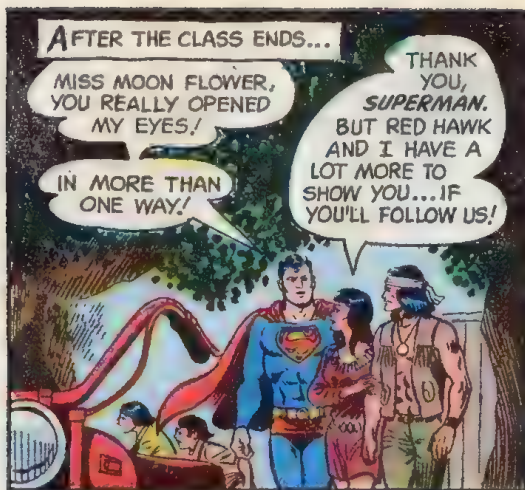
AURORA

WILL THE EXPERIMENT SUCCEED? IT'S UP TO YOU WHEN YOU BUILD YOUR MONSTERSCENES CUSTOM BUILDER KITS FROM **AURORA**

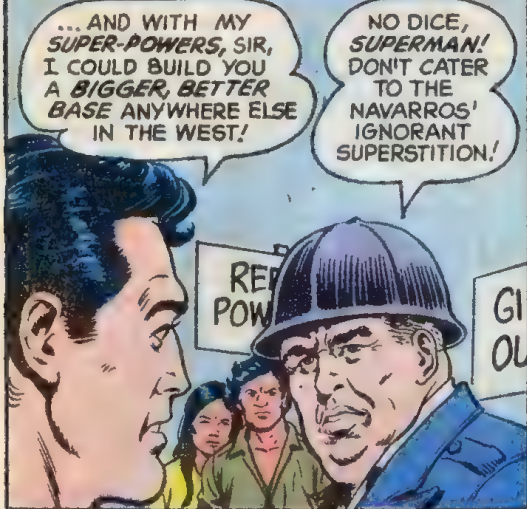


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AS SUPERMAN MAKES HIS PLEA...



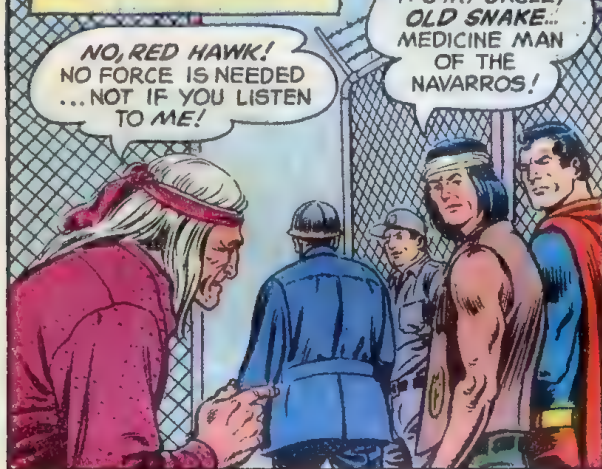
MY METEOROLOGISTS SAY THE WEATHER PATTERNS HERE ARE THE MOST **STABLE** IN THE COUNTRY... **PERFECT** FOR ROCKET TESTS!

FOR THE GOOD OF AMERICA, I MUST BUILD THE BASE HERE!

THEN THE ONLY ANSWER IS **FORCE!**



AS HALDANE LEAVES...



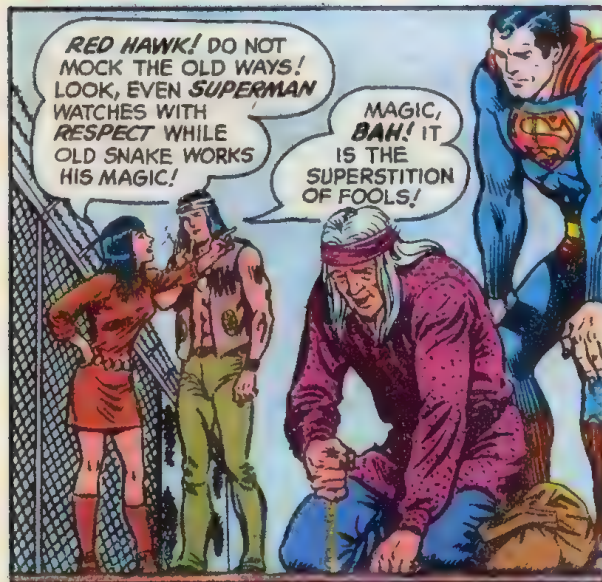
RED HAWK! LET ME WORK THE MIGHTY MAGIC OF THE SAND PAINTINGS-- MAGIC SPELLS HANDED DOWN FROM THE DAYS OF OUR FORE-FATHERS!

AND YOU THINK THAT **PAINTED LIGHTNING** WILL BRING A THUNDERBOLT TO STRIKE OUR ENEMIES, EH? HA-HA!



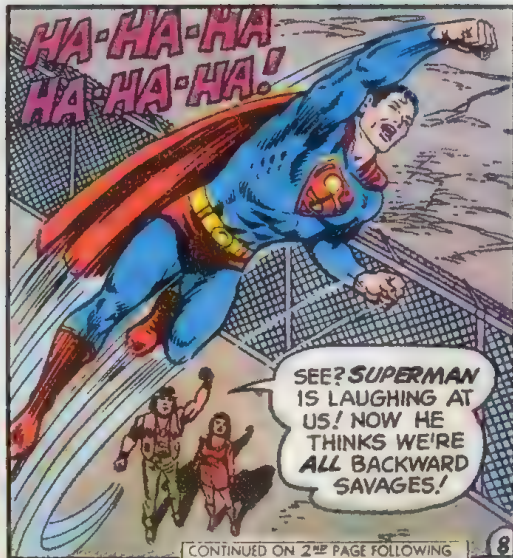
RED HAWK! DO NOT MOCK THE OLD WAYS! LOOK, EVEN **SUPERMAN** WATCHES WITH RESPECT WHILE OLD SNAKE WORKS HIS MAGIC!

MAGIC, BAH! IT IS THE SUPERSTITION OF FOOLS!



HA-HA-HA HA-HA-HA!

SEE? **SUPERMAN** IS LAUGHING AT US! NOW HE THINKS WE'RE ALL BACKWARD SAVAGES!



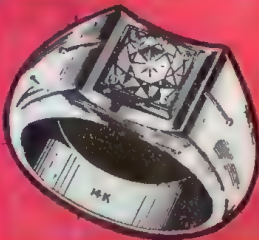
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Illustrations
enlarged to
show detail.

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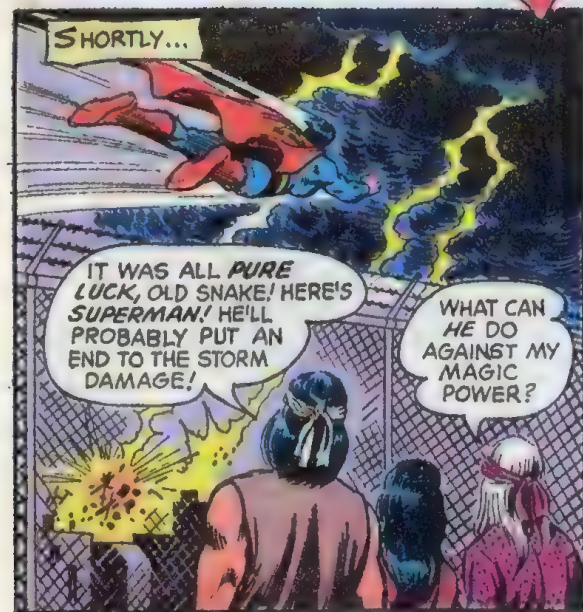
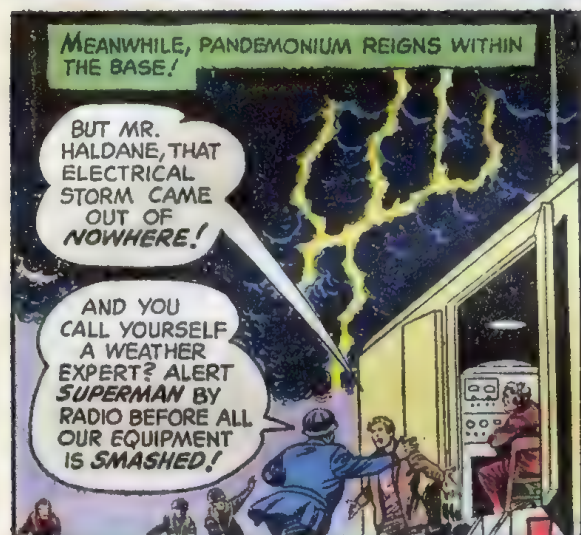
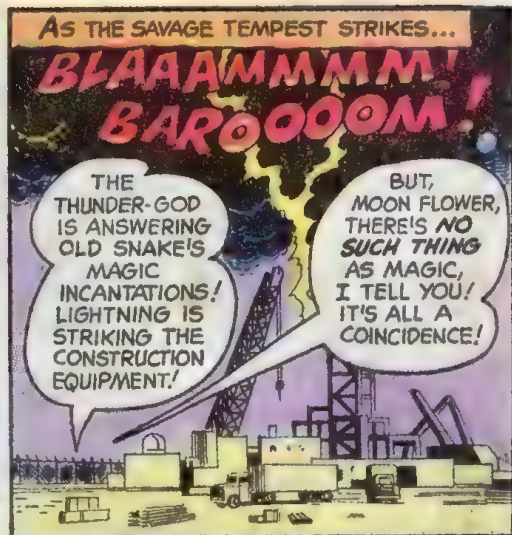
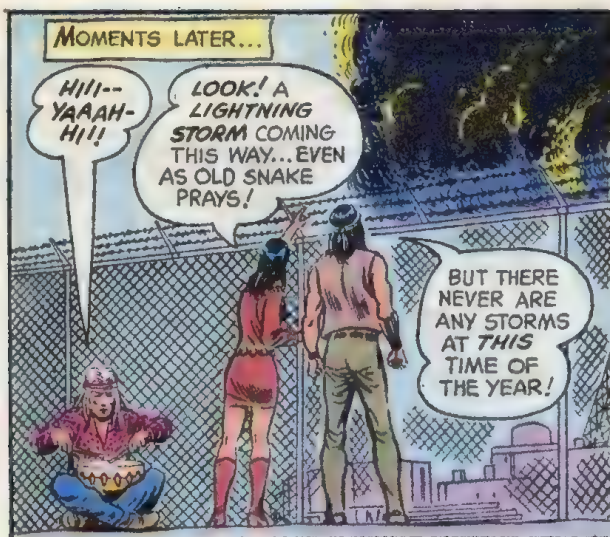
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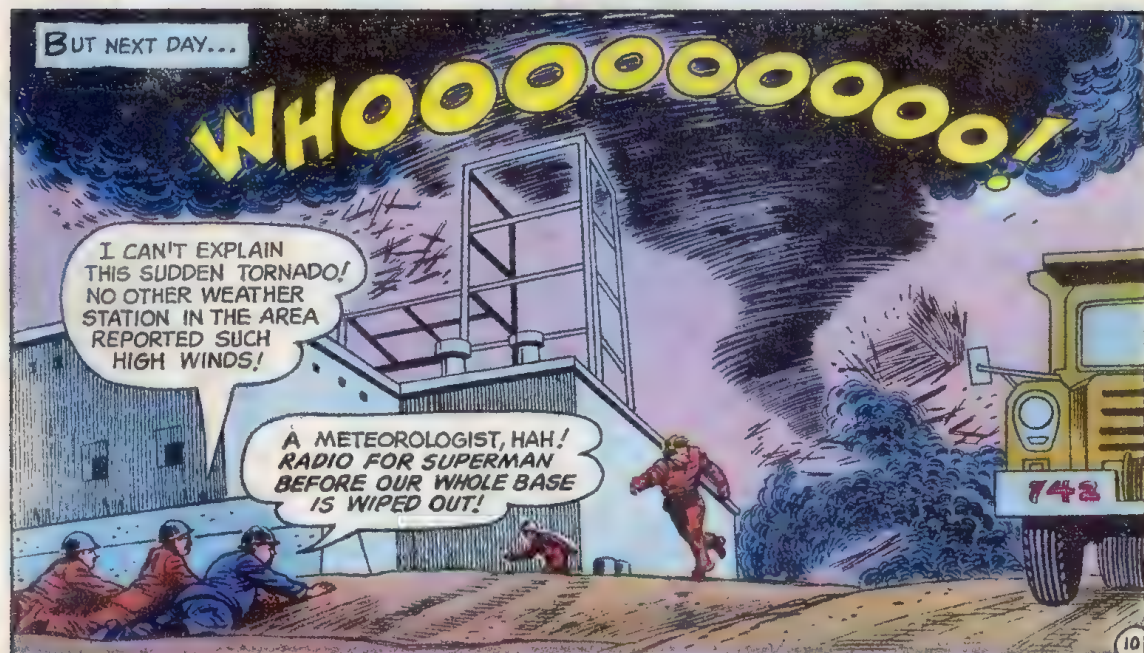
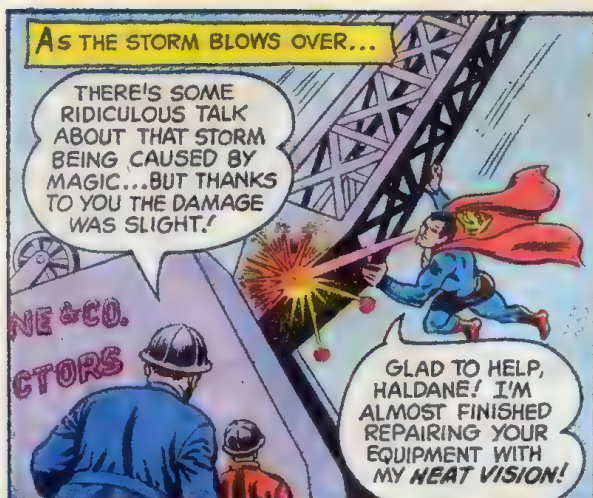
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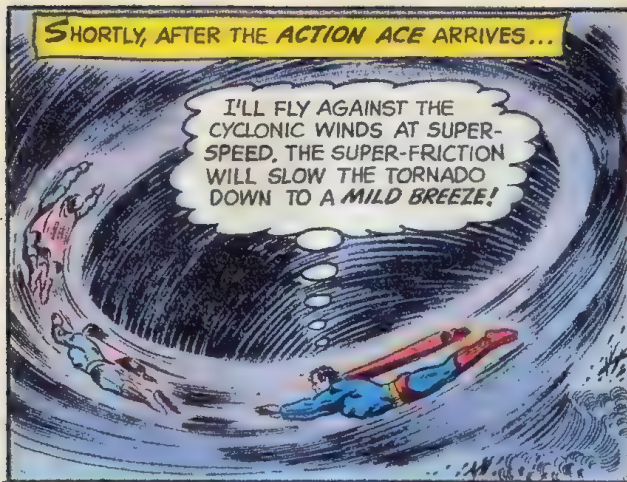
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\$5.00 charge on all purchases to cover postage, shipping, handling.

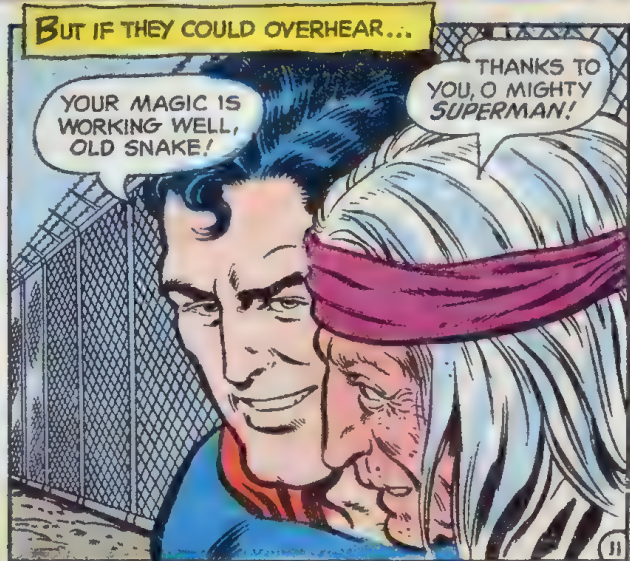
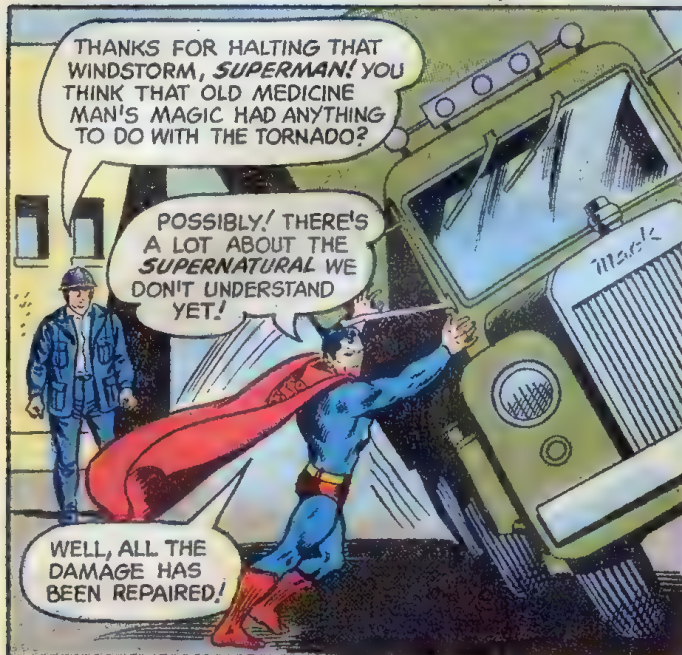




SHORTLY, AFTER THE ACTION ACE ARRIVES...



PRESENTLY...





"YES, IT WAS *I* WHO BLEW THAT ELECTRICAL STORM OVER THE BASE..."

...TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE HIS SAND PAINTING SUMMONED UP THE LIGHTNING OF THE THUNDER GOD!

"AND IT WAS *I* WHO STARTED THAT TREMENDOUS TORNADO..."

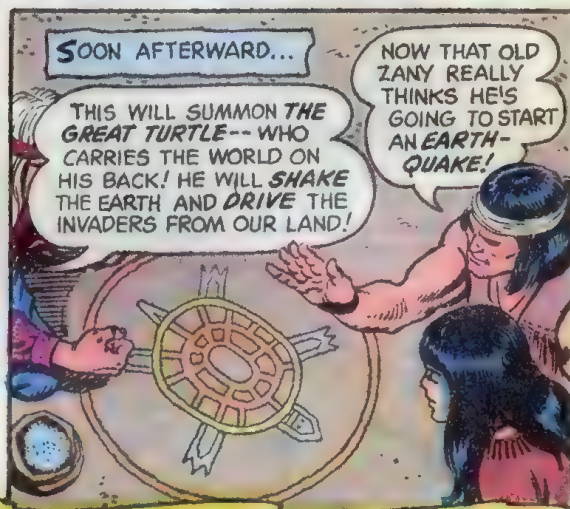
IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, WHIRLING AT SUPER-SPEED WILL CREATE A TORNADO THAT WILL PASS DIRECTLY OVER THE AREA...

...AND CREATE THE HAVOC PREDICTED BY OLD SNAKE'S DRAWING!



OF COURSE I'M REPAIRING ANY DAMAGE I CAUSED! BUT SOONER OR LATER HALDANE WILL BE GLAD TO LET ME MOVE HIS SITE!

GOODBYE, SUPERMAN! IT'S TIME WE STARTED ON OUR NEXT "FEAT OF MAGIC!"



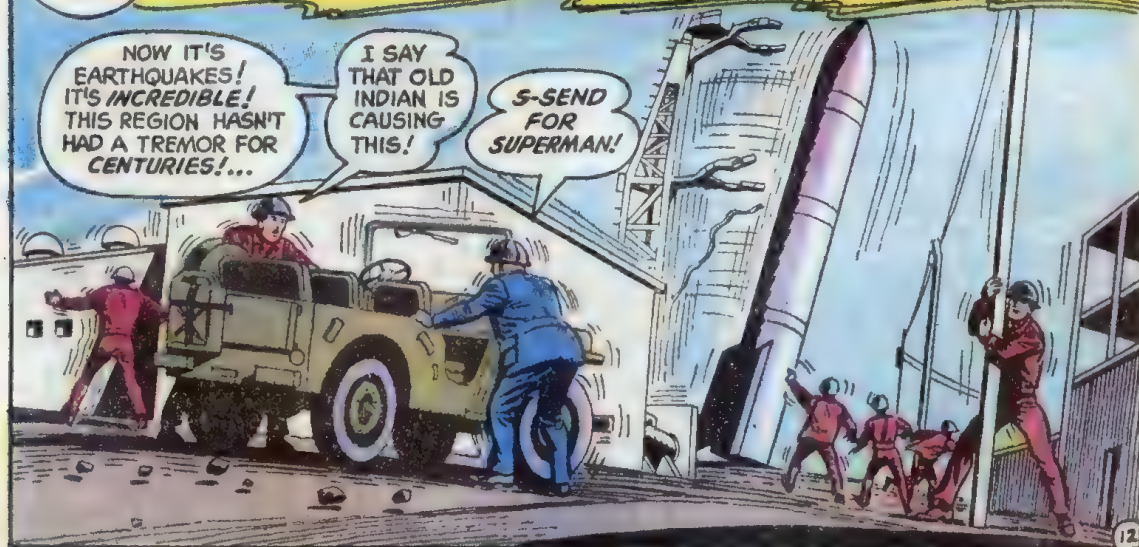
SOON AFTERWARD...

THIS WILL SUMMON THE GREAT TURTLE-- WHO CARRIES THE WORLD ON HIS BACK! HE WILL SHAKE THE EARTH AND DRIVE THE INVADERS FROM OUR LAND!

NOW THAT OLD ZANY REALLY THINKS HE'S GOING TO START AN EARTH-QUAKE!

AND NEXT DAY AT DAWN...

RRRUMMMM BBBLLLLLLL!

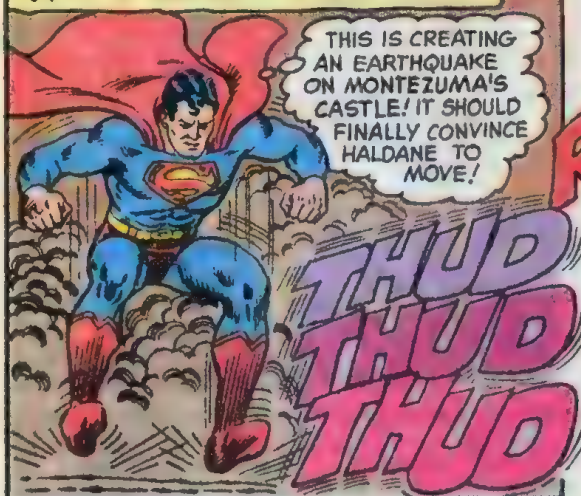


NOW IT'S EARTHQUAKES! IT'S INCREDIBLE! THIS REGION HASN'T HAD A TREMOR FOR CENTURIES!...

I SAY THAT OLD INDIAN IS CAUSING THIS!

S-SEND FOR SUPERMAN!

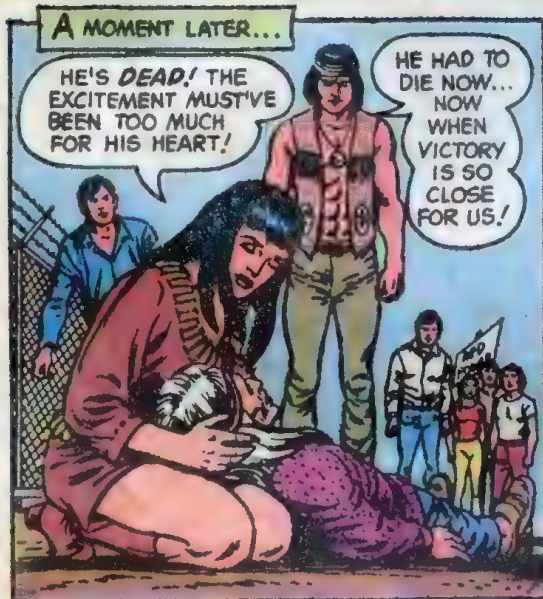
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, MILES AWAY...



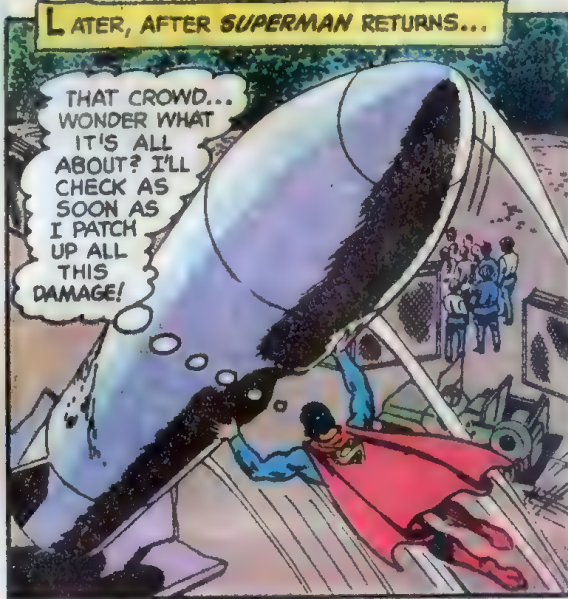
BUT THE TREMORS HAVE AN EVEN MORE SHOCKING EFFECT...



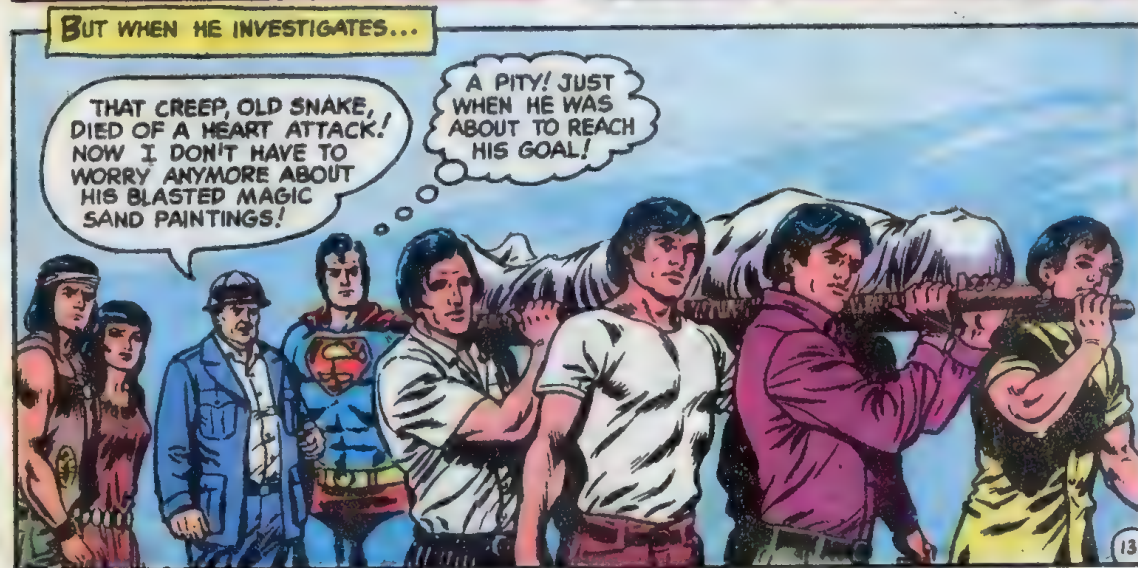
A MOMENT LATER...

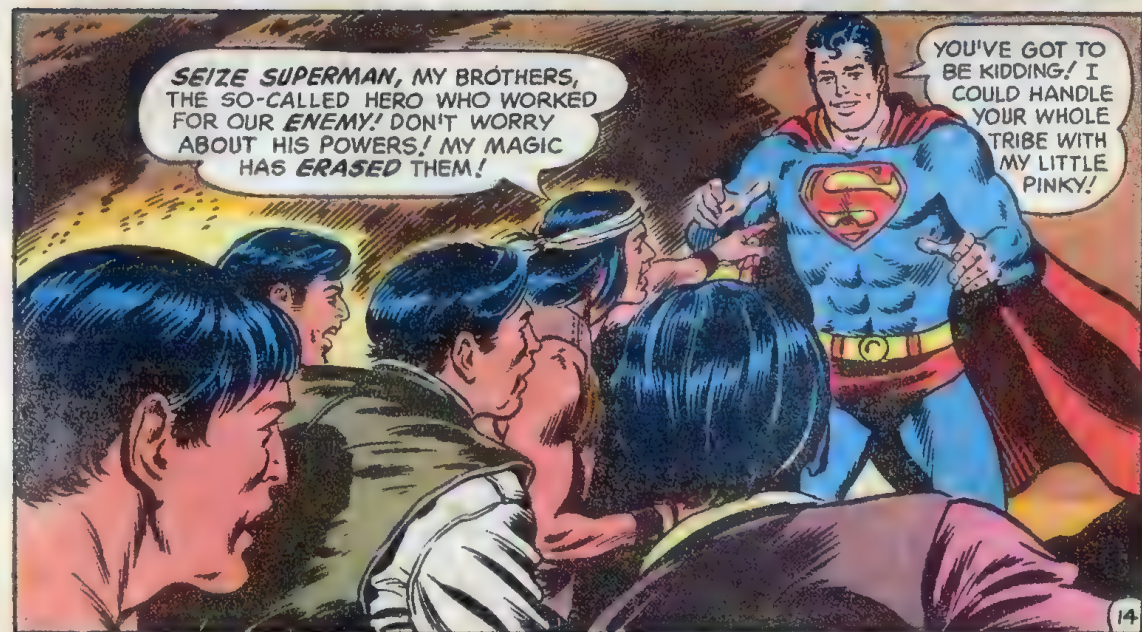
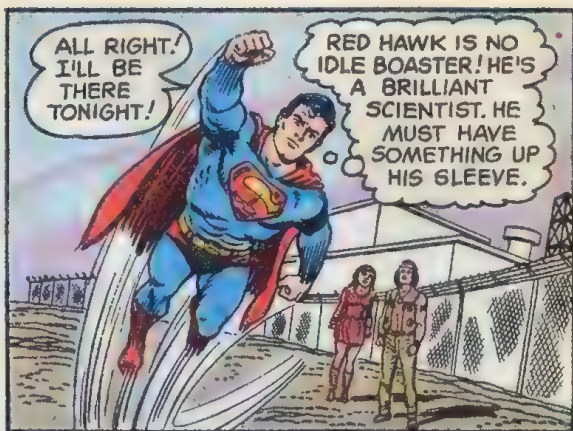
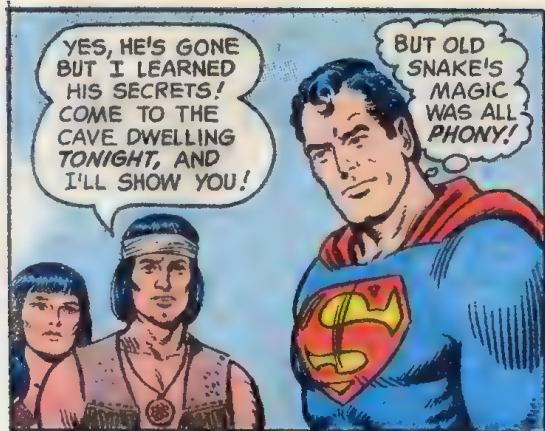


LATER, AFTER SUPERMAN RETURNS...



BUT WHEN HE INVESTIGATES...





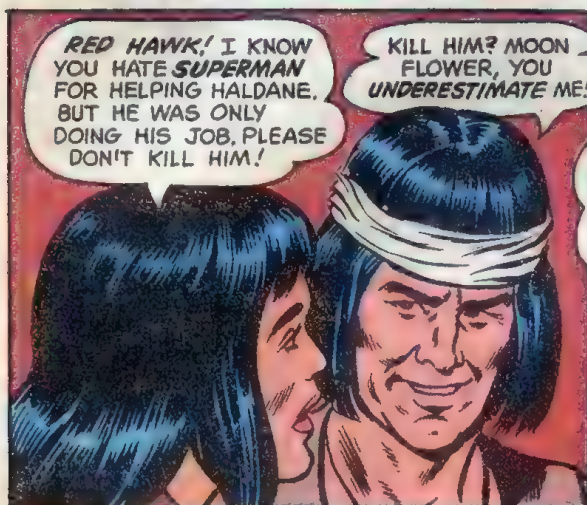


BUT AMAZINGLY...

UHHHHH!

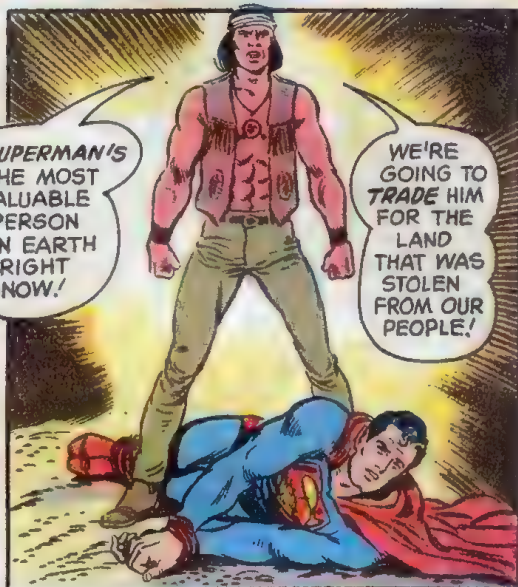
WHAT'S THIS? SUDDENLY
I'M POWERLESS!

TIE HIM
UP! I,
RED HAWK,
HAVE USED MY
MAGIC TO TURN
SUPERMAN INTO
AN ORDINARY MAN!



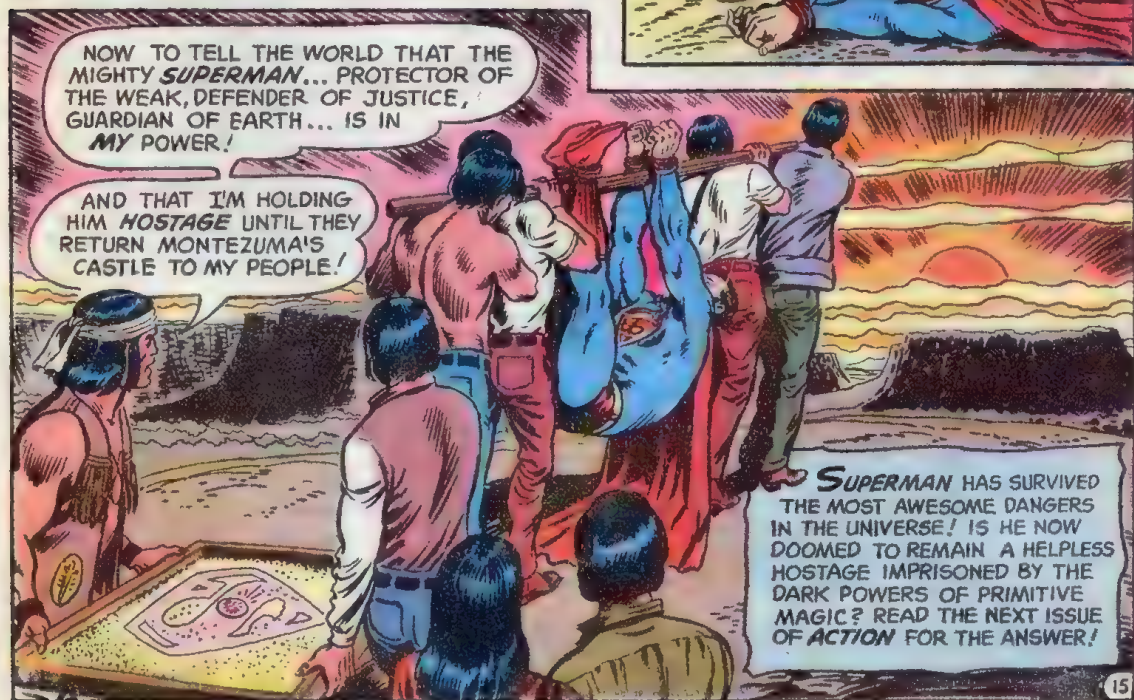
RED HAWK, I KNOW
YOU HATE **SUPERMAN**
FOR HELPING HALDANE.
BUT HE WAS ONLY
DOING HIS JOB, PLEASE
DON'T KILL HIM!

KILL HIM? MOON
FLOWER, YOU
UNDERESTIMATE ME!



SUPERMAN'S
THE MOST
VALUABLE
PERSON
ON EARTH
RIGHT
NOW!

WE'RE
GOING TO
TRADE HIM
FOR THE
LAND
THAT WAS
STOLEN
FROM OUR
PEOPLE!



NOW TO TELL THE WORLD THAT THE
MIGHTY **SUPERMAN**... PROTECTOR OF
THE WEAK, DEFENDER OF JUSTICE,
GUARDIAN OF EARTH... IS IN
MY POWER!

AND THAT I'M HOLDING
HIM **HOSTAGE** UNTIL THEY
RETURN MONTEZUMA'S
CASTLE TO MY PEOPLE!

SUPERMAN HAS SURVIVED
THE MOST AWESOME DANGERS
IN THE UNIVERSE! IS HE NOW
DOOMED TO REMAIN A HELPLESS
HOSTAGE IMPRISONED BY THE
DARK POWERS OF PRIMITIVE
MAGIC? READ THE NEXT ISSUE
OF **ACTION** FOR THE ANSWER!



Peter, Paul and Mary □ Frank Sinatra □ Mason Williams □ The Association □ Joni Mitchell □ The Vogues □ Petula Clark □ The First Edition □ Dion □ Elia Fitzgerald □ Randy Newman

□ The Everly Brothers □ Harpers Bizarre □ Rod McKuen □ Theo Bikel □ Glenn Yarbrough □ Gordon Lightfoot □ Vince Guaraldi □ Doug Kershaw □ Arlo Guthrie □ Miriam Makeba □ The San Sebastian Strings.

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☐ Send me Schlagers, the two-record set described in such excruciating detail above (\$2.00).

Name

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WHERE THE ACTION IS

National Periodical Publications, Inc.
909 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022



Dear Editor:

After the final Weisinger-edited issues of ACTION and SUPERMAN came out, I was hoping I'd seen the last of the Imaginary Tales. I didn't think any good could come from its continuation. Therefore, you can imagine my chagrin at reading the DIRECT CURRENTS ad for the January ACTION, plugging a new Imaginary Tale.

Well, I'm happy to say that on reading "The Super-Panhandler of Metropolis" and its conclusion, "The Secret of the Wheel-Chair Superman," I found my prejudices to be totally unfounded. This is, without a doubt, the BEST Imaginary Tale I ever read. It's true that the titles left something to be desired, but the greatness of the story's emotional conflict cannot be denied.

Throughout the entire story, Leo Dorfman took situations which could have easily sounded like something out of a soap opera (such as the dying couple and the climax in the burning tenement) and gave them a new perspective, capturing that all too elusive thing called a sense of reality. I especially liked the reason for Superman's "loss" of super-powers. There was no PHYSICAL reason for his illness; he was merely the victim of his own self-pity, brought on by a feeling of insecurity when the world no longer needed him.

Of course, I can't slight the contributions of Curt Swan and Murphy Anderson. I think that Curt and Murph make the finest artistic team ever to portray the Action Ace. However, they must learn to put more emotion into their art.

I believe that you can maintain the high quality of this masterpiece in the future Imaginary Tales if (1) all plots are concerned with possible future occurrences, not with contrived alterations of Superman's past; (2) there are no more tales about the marriage of Superman (unless it's for real), because that idea has been completely worn out; and (3) you give us an Imaginary Tale, say, once every two years or so. In that way, the series' uniqueness will not be lost.

Glenn Freeze, La Mirada, Calif.

Well, we'll do Imaginary Epics when we get particularly good ideas for them. But we won't overload our mags with 'em. If we did, we might wind up with only Imaginary Readers.—Ed.



Dear Editor:

I just finished reading ACTION #397 ("The Secret of

the Wheel-Chair Superman") and I fear I must disagree with (of all people!) Superman!

The disagreement enters in at the very last page, in the last panel, when he says, "There must be a world like the Earth I once knew . . . a world that still needs a Superman!"

I say, even in the 1990's (if we survive that long) and supposing science does go that far, there will still be a need for Superman. In fact, there will always exist this need, because there will always be a tremendous need for someone—super-powered or not—who cares.

And after all, isn't that the secret of Superman? Caring?

So stick around, Superman—we need someone to remind us HOW to care.

Lynn M. Lango, Riverdale, Md.

That's the kind of letter that makes us forget our . . . uh . . . CARES!—Ed.



Dear Editor:

ACTION #397 was one of the worst issues you've ever published.

"The Secret of the Wheel-Chair Superman" would've been a great story if it wasn't imaginary. You could have done plenty with Superman in this situation. If Superman had really been paralyzed, the top 4 panels on page 10 might have had a super-effect on the reader. Instead, it only showed what MIGHT happen.

So, dear editor, you've got to cut out these crummy Imaginary Stories if the "new" Superman is to be born. Please give it some thought.

Joe Peluso, Brooklyn, N.Y.

How could that story have been real, Joe? It was based on a world that didn't need the Man of Might, which we certainly don't have. And to set a real story in the future would have tied us down to certain things that would have to happen. Why say what's going to happen to him in twenty years when we'll probably have even better ideas by then?—Ed.



Dear Editor:

Is the undersea Fortress that appeared in ACTION #397 the same one Superman built back in ACTION #244?

Mark Myers, Las Vegas, Nev.

Check! It's still there, any time the Metropolis Marvel has to switch his base of operations to the wet world.—Ed.



Dear Editor:

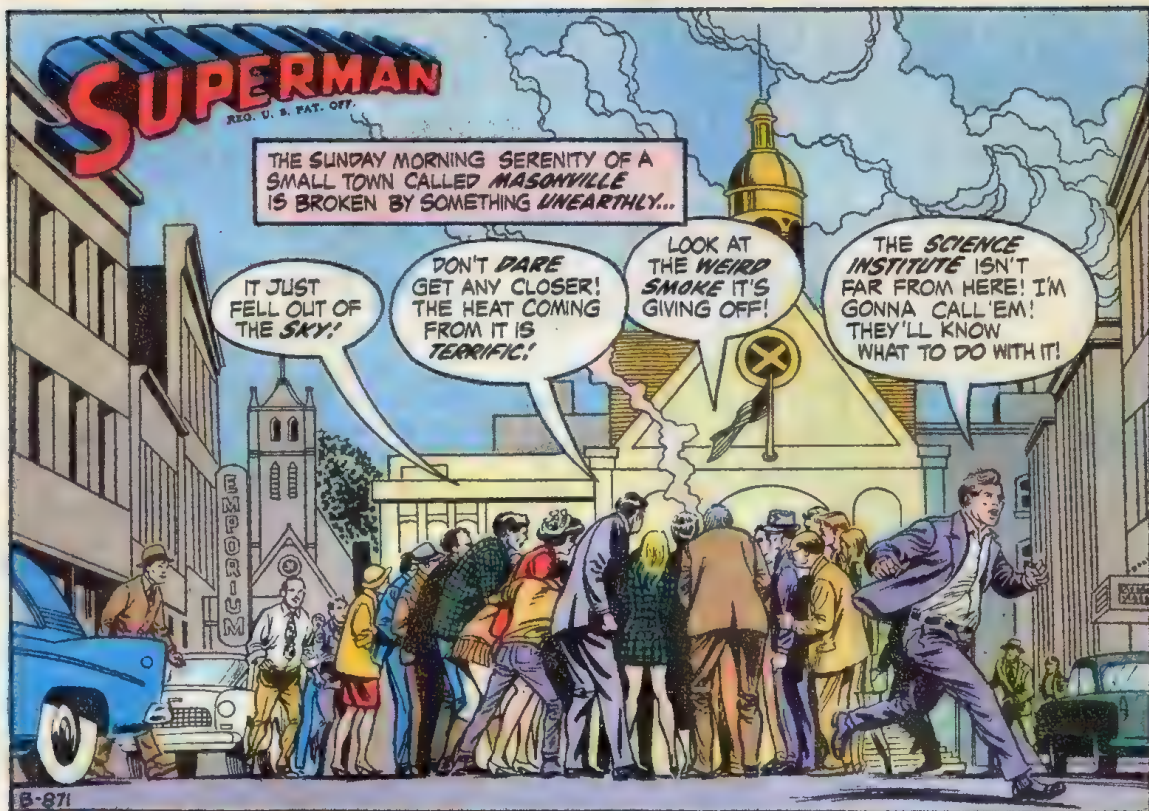
A beautiful cover (I hope Infantino covers become a habit), a well-enacted plot, strong characterization and great use of emotion, plus fantastic Swan-Anderson artwork made "The Secret of the Wheel-Chair Superman" a fine conclusion to your two-part Imaginary Story.

The second tale was equally good, and I hope the Fortress series continues.

Here's a belated thank you for those interesting short biographies you've been running. Do you realize that there are two bios you've left out? They are your own, Mr. Boltinoff, and that of your assistant editor, Mr. Bridwell. How about that?

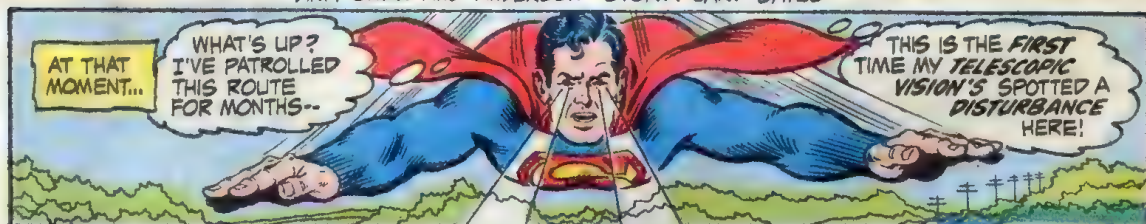
Gerard Triano, Elmont, N.Y.

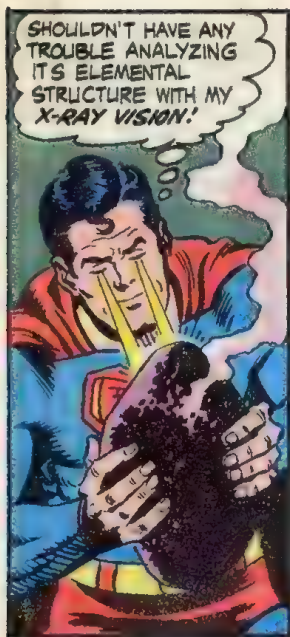
Well, let's see—I was born on—huh? Oh . . . we've run out of room. We'll have to save these memoirs till some other time.—Ed.



The BOY WHO BEGGED TO DIE!

ART: SWAN AND ANDERSON - STORY: CARY BATES







MEANWHILE ... SUPERMAN'S EYES REMAIN FIXED ON THE PULSATING MINERAL OF DISASTER...

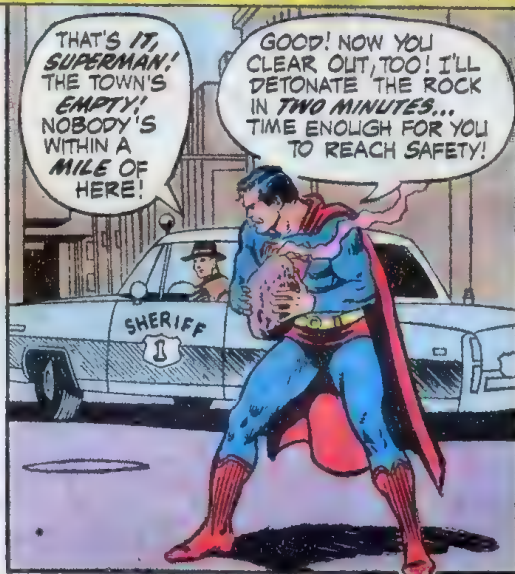
THESE PEOPLE
AREN'T CLEARING
OUT **FAST ENOUGH...**
BECAUSE I'VE
DISCOVERED
ANOTHER DANGER!

EVERY MINUTE THE
METEORITE IS EXPOSED
TO THE AIR, ITS
DESTRUCTIVE FORCE
INCREASES! DON'T
KNOW **HOW SOON**
IT'LL GO OFF!

THAT'S IT,
SUPERMAN!
THE TOWN'S
EMPTY!
NOBODY'S
WITHIN A
MILE OF
HERE!

GOOD! NOW YOU
CLEAR OUT, TOO! I'LL
DETONATE THE ROCK
IN **TWO MINUTES...**
TIME ENOUGH FOR YOU
TO REACH SAFETY!

WHAT IF THE
BOMB'S BECOME
POWERFUL ENOUGH
IN THESE LAST FEW
MINUTES TO EXPLODE
BEYOND THE MILE-
LIMIT? THERE'LL
BE COUNTLESS
VICTIMS!



WITHIN AN HOUR
MASONVILLE IS
A GHOST TOWN...

FIVE MORE SECONDS AND I
CAN DROP THE METEORITE
AND GET IT OVER WITH!

FOUR...

THREE...

TWO...



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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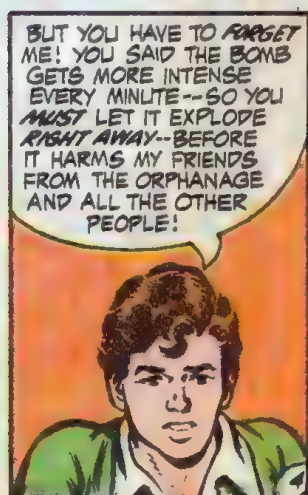
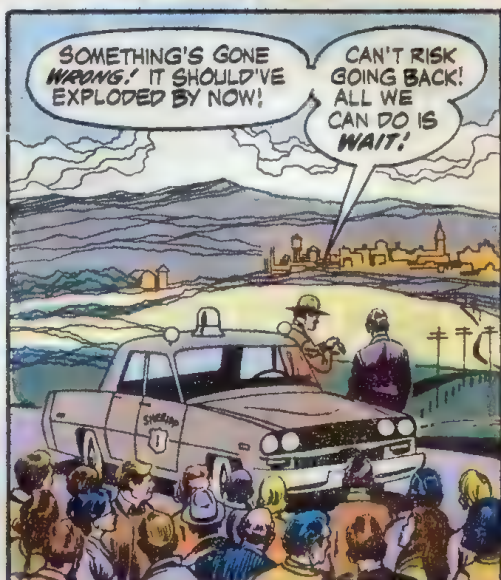
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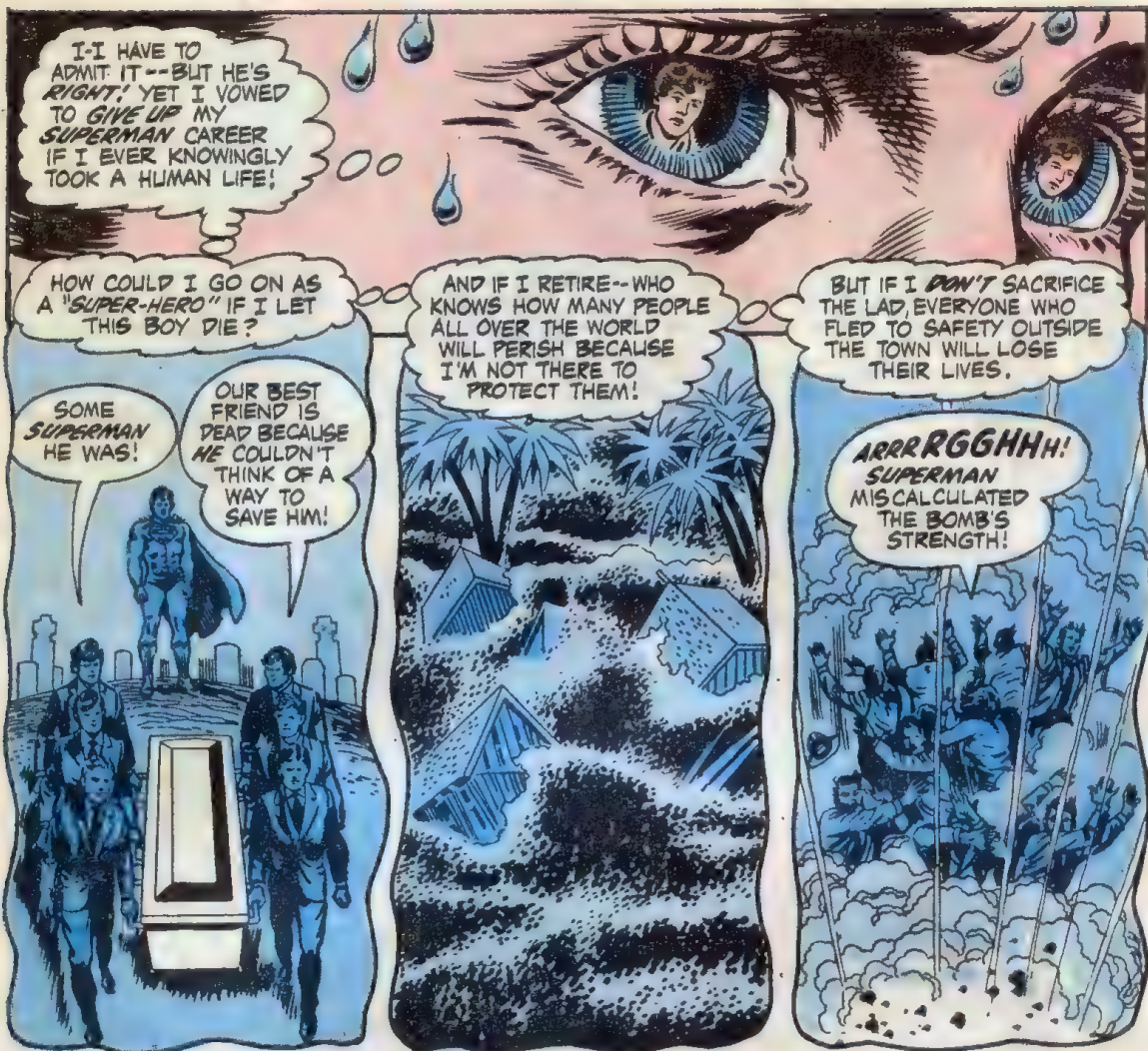
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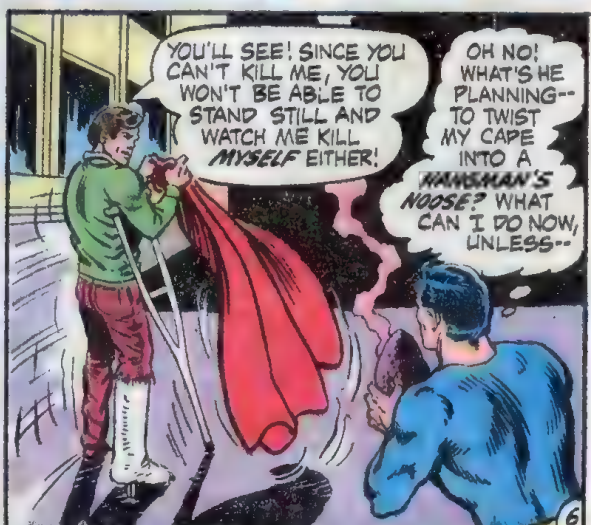
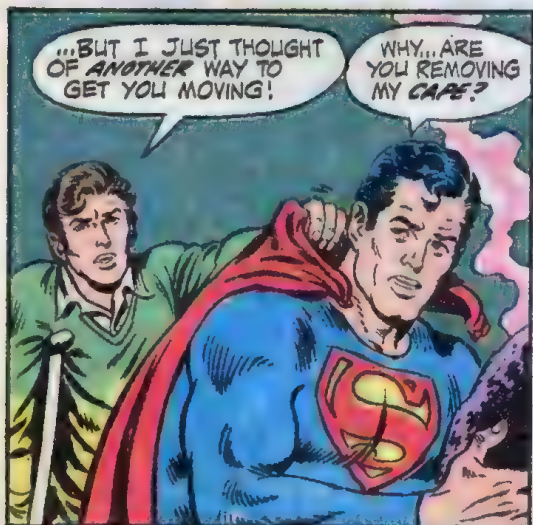
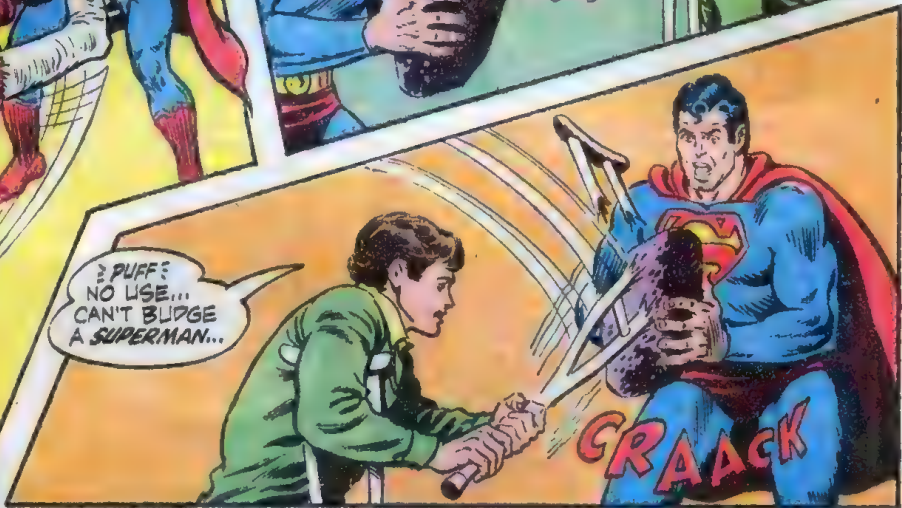
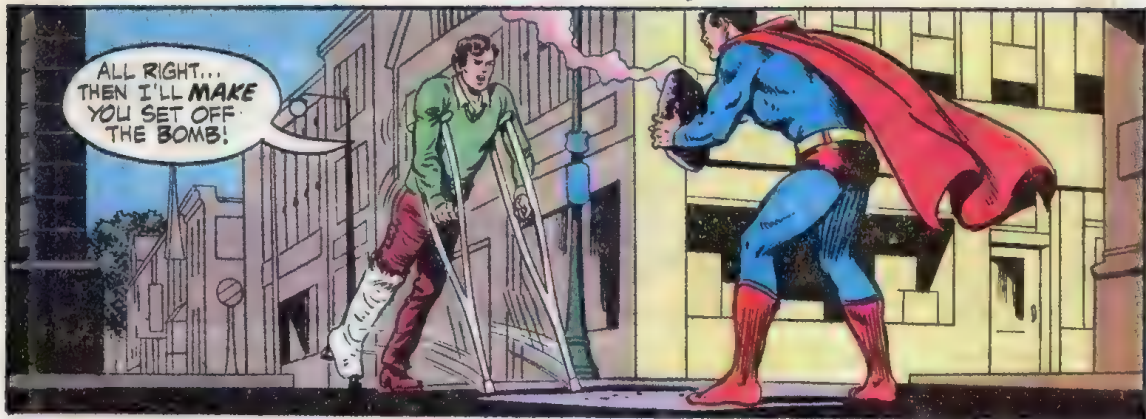
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AN EYEBLINK LATER, A TITANIC EXPLOSION VAPORIZES MASONVILLE OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH...

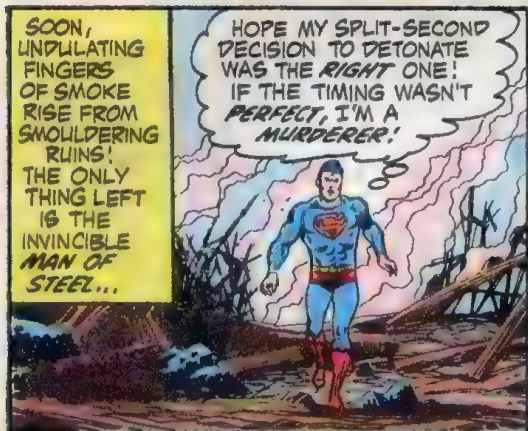
VARROOOMMM

WHEW! SUPERMAN DIDN'T TELL US THE EXPLOSION WOULD BE *THAT* POWERFUL! A FEW FEET CLOSER AND WE'D BE *GONERS*!



SOON, UNDULATING FINGERS OF SMOKE RISE FROM SMOULDERING RUINS! THE ONLY THING LEFT IS THE INVINCIBLE MAN OF STEEL...

HOPE MY SPLIT-SECOND DECISION TO DETONATE WAS THE *RIGHT* ONE! IF THE TIMING WASN'T *PERFECT*, I'M A *MURDERER*!

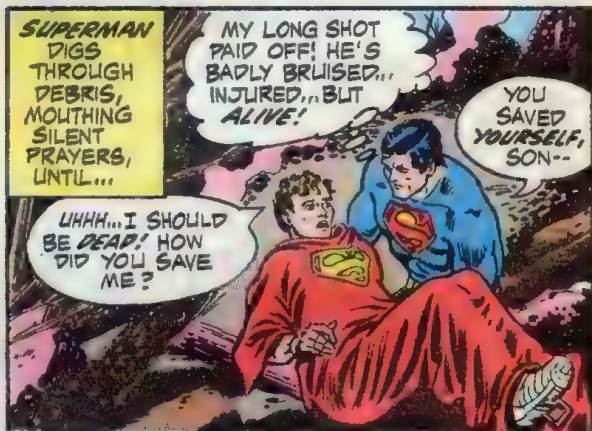


SUPERMAN DIGS THROUGH DEBRIS, MOUTHING SILENT PRAYERS, UNTIL...

MY LONG SHOT PAID OFF! HE'S BADLY BRUISED... INJURED... BUT *ALIVE*!

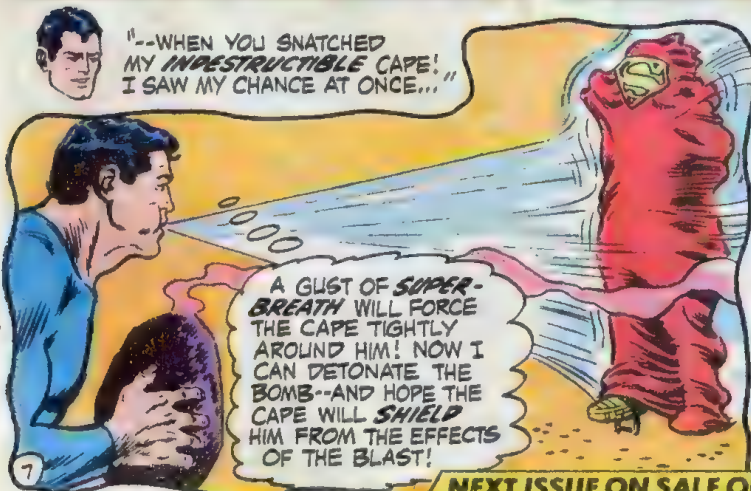
YOU SAVED YOURSELF, SON--

UHHH... I SHOULD BE *DEAD*! HOW DID YOU SAVE ME?



"--WHEN YOU SNATCHED MY *INDESTRUCTIBLE* CAPE! I SAW MY CHANCE AT ONCE..."

A GUST OF *SUPER-BREATH* WILL FORCE THE CAPE TIGHTLY AROUND HIM! NOW I CAN DETONATE THE BOMB--AND HOPE THE CAPE WILL *SHIELD* HIM FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE BLAST!



NOW I'VE GOT TO RUSH YOU TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL... AND RETURN TO BEGIN THE MONUMENTAL TASK OF REBUILDING MASONVILLE FROM SCRATCH!



The End

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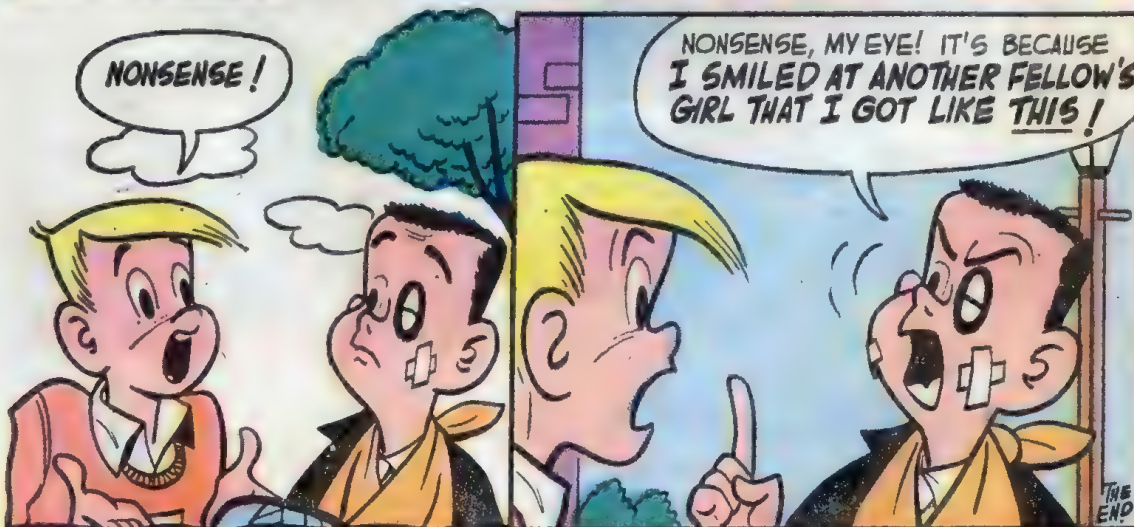
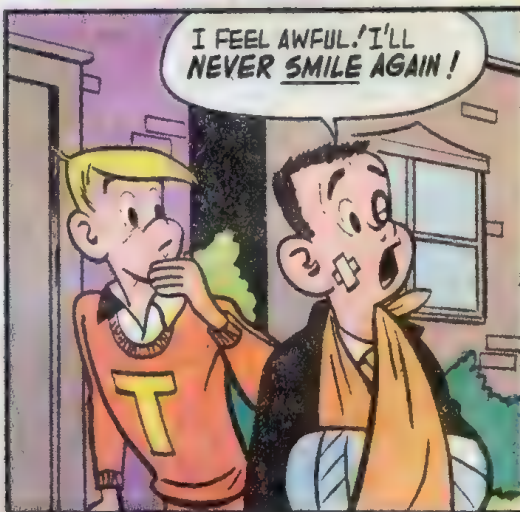
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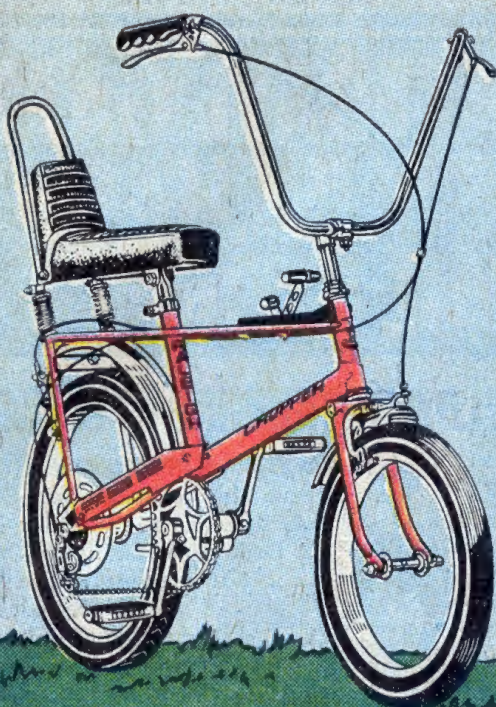
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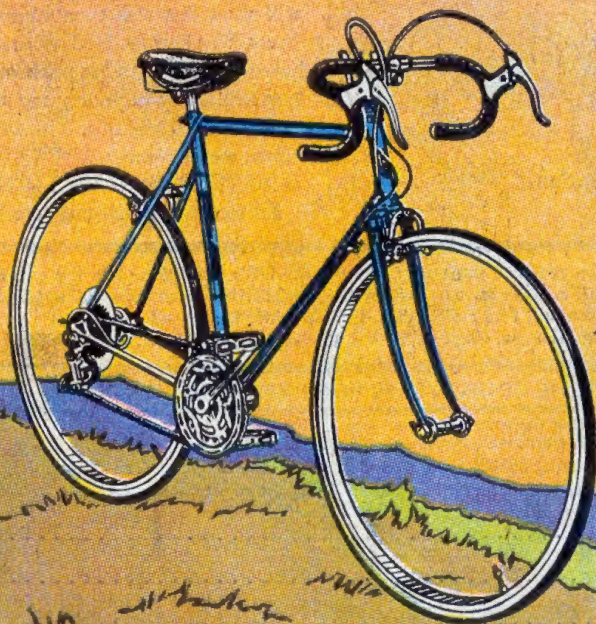
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BOOMERANG

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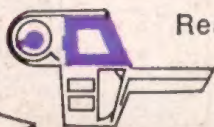


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